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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
June 17, 2020**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

Stacia Libby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Needleman welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen remote public access meeting. This meeting was made available to the public via Zoom Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen and attendees went around the room and announced themselves.

First Selectman Needleman announced that audio attendees will be muted during the meeting except during public comment. Attendees were asked to please identify themselves for the record prior to making any comments.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the Agenda. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the June 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

There was discussion that COVID has made its way into Essex Meadows. It is a tragedy and we've lost a few residents. The Selectmen stated that the facility has done a great job in taking steps and they have a strong infection prevention program in place and are remaining vigilant in order to prevent any further spread of the disease.

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions None

Board of Selectmen Meetings

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to cancel the July 1, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Schedule Public Hearing None

Set Town Meeting None

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Public Comment / Announcements: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Re-opening the Essex Town Hall

The Selectmen discussed that hopefully in July, Boards and Commissions could possibly start meeting again in Town Hall with proper social distancing.

Combining Planning and Zoning Commissions

There was discussion of the Town combining the Planning and Zoning Commissions in order to create one Commission. The Town has a professional planner who already does much of the leg work for both commissions and the Selectmen stated that it makes sense to combine them. The Selectmen asked that this item be placed on the July 17th agenda and to invite all Planning and Zoning Commission members to the meeting.

The Selectmen further discussed that this could be voted on during the September 2nd meeting and then would be moved to a Town meeting for the legislative body approval in hopes that the transition would be effective December 1. Town Clerk Joel Marzi, Town Attorney David Royston, and the Town Planner John Guskowski are reviewing the ordinances and discussing whether to make it an eight-person commission with five regular members and three alternate members. They are also working on a transition plan to determine how to disband both commissions and/or create a new joint commission.

Re-opening the Essex Town Hall

The Town hall is opening on Monday, June 22 with strict guidelines. There will be a door greeter who will make sure we are limiting capacity in the building and they are wearing a mask upon entry, in order to keeping everyone safe.

Mr. Glowac mentioned there was much discussion about who is going to be the Town Hall door greeter. Mr. Needleman reported he has a plan. There was further discussion that the first-floor restrooms will be closed, the second-floor restrooms will be open to the public, and the third-floor restrooms are for employees only.

Tax Bills

Mr. Needleman reported that this year, for everyone's convenience, a self-addressed stamped envelope will be included with all tax bills so that payment can be mailed so people will not have to visit Town Hall. Another option, for a small fee, is taxes can be paid online either by using a credit card or an electronic e-check.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Sustainable CT wants to apply for funding for installation of an electric vehicle charging station. The grant they are looking into has a 50% cost share. If awarded, they are interested in matching these grant funds with possibly doing a crowd funding to raise the rest of the funds. There was discussion of locations for the charging station. The Selectmen thought that downtown would be an ideal place. The Selectmen agreed that the installation of an electric vehicle charging station in the Town of Essex is a great idea. The Selectmen wondered if the proposal submitted by the Sustainable CT group included bringing power from the pole to the charging station.

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Essex Town Hall – Joint Repointing and Sealing

There has been work on the outside of the Town Hall building to prevent water from infiltrating the joints. Pointing joints with mortar is being done to preserve the town Hall. The cost of the lift is \$3,000 for the month and the cost of the sealant is \$3700.

IGA Building – Colonial Market

There have been calls regarding the Colonial Market location. The Selectmen reported there is nothing the Town can do because the property is privately owned and managed. Also, the owner is not able to move forward because the courts are closed due to COVID.

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was moved and seconded and unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli